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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6187
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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AFRICA: LIBYA, BULGARIAN NURSES'
CONDEMNATION; SAO PAULO

"Qaddafi's Farce"

Liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (12/21) editorialized: "Three years ago, Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi admitted the possession of weapons of mass destruction and promised to destroy them. He aimed to reinstate his nation, which had just emerged from a decade under a UN embargo, into the international community. Some saw in his attitude a sign that things were improving in Libya. Unfortunately, that was not the truth. The judicial farce performed in Libyan courts that condemned to death five Bulgarian nurses and one Palestinian doctor is evidence that the nature of Qaddafi's regime remains the same. The accusation against the defendants is absurd.... The farce was scientifically refuted by three different reports conducted by respected international experts.... Qaddafi is using the already classic tactic of dictatorships of attributing to a 'foreign enemy' the responsibility for their own incompetence.... Blackmailer Muammar Qaddafi may have changed in appearance for his own convenience, but he continues to head one of the world's most odious regimes."
Wolfe